
APPENDIX E

PROJECT STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Sara J. Alan. Ms. Alan joined the Consulting Division of Policy Studies Inc. (PSI) as a Research Assistant to help with data collection, data analysis, program evaluation, survey administration, and case reviews for evaluations of human services programs. She has worked extensively with Drs. Price and Venohr in conducting library and Internet research, extracting data from child support case files, compiling data bases from primary and secondary sources, and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data on multiple topics. In the last year, Alan provided research assistance on the multi-site evaluation of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Responsible Fatherhood projects, Minnesota Child Support Assurance Project, Vermont Child Support Guidelines survey and case file review, and several other child support guidelines reviews (e.g., Maryland, Ohio, South Dakota, Kentucky). Prior to joining PSI, she worked as a research assistant at the University of Colorado Institute for Behavior Studies where she conducted national research on Congressional candidates to understand candidates' positions on key issues and how they affect the election process.

David M. Betson, Ph.D. Dr. Betson is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame, as well as a Research Affiliate for the Institute for Research on Poverty for the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Betson has done extensive work in the area of school-age children and poverty and research and consulting projects for child support guidelines. He served as a consultant for the Indiana Judicial Council, Indiana Supreme Court in that State's review of their child support guidelines. Dr. Betson was also an advisor to the Justice Ministry of Canada on the formation of child support guidelines.

Dr. Betson has authored extensive articles on the child support system, child support guidelines, and children and poverty. In addition to his many publications, he is currently working on a paper entitled "Fairness and Adequacy of State Child Support Programs for Low Income Families" with Dr. Jane Venohr. He has also made presentations to Child Support Committees in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Arizona, and New Jersey. Dr. Betson holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Carol L. Huffine, Ph.D. Dr. Huffine is a social psychologist whose professional career has been devoted primarily to applied research. She has expertise in a range



of research methods including survey, field, and longitudinal research techniques and she has collected and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data for numerous projects. At present, she is a professor at the San Francisco Bay Area campus of the California School of Professional Psychology and director of its Psychological Services Center, which is located in downtown Oakland. In recent years, her projects have included (1) assessing the health and social effects on communities of military base closure, (2) evaluating services provided by battered women's shelters; (3) assessing the need for services related to teen relationship abuse; and (4) providing evaluation services and consultation to the Administrative Offices of the Court in its evaluation of the California Child Support system and programs designed to increase access to the courts. Dr. Huffine received her doctorate in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Kelly Parkhurst, J.D. Ms. Parkhurst provides legal analysis and training for PSI's consulting division. Among her project assignments, she has worked with States around the country reviewing and drafting legislation dealing with child support issues, training on legal issues, and evaluating case processing. She has conducted management reviews of child support operations in numerous States and developed recommendations for improving case processing, particularly in how cases are handled in courts. In assessing child support operations, Parkhurst has conducted numerous case file reviews, including case file reviews for the evaluation of the Parents' Fair Share project, of which Los Angeles County was a project site. Currently, she is working in Michigan to help streamline child support program operations (which are handled through the courts) and is serving as project director for an Administrative Enforcement and Interstate Lien pilot program in Wyoming. Parkhurst regularly makes presentations at state, regional and national conferences on such topics as UIFSA, legal ethics, and attorney practices. Prior to joining PSI's consulting division, Parkhurst practiced family law in Tennessee.

David A. Price, Ph.D. is co-founder and Sr. Vice President of PSI. His experience with child support guidelines and child support issues is extensive. He has collaborated on numerous guidelines projects over the last 15 years, including the national Child Support Guidelines Project, and has developed and refined models for establishing the levels of child support awards, including models based on the most recent data on the economic costs of child rearing. He served as senior researcher on the Ohio and South Carolina Child Support Guidelines projects, which included studies of the provisions states make and adjustments they allow for such issues as visitation, shared custody, extraordinary medical expenses, educational expenses, child care, second families, and low income.

In addition to child support issues, Price consults nationally with courts and other justice system agencies to evaluate programs, facilitate strategic planning processes, design and implement quality improvement initiatives, and develop organizational and management plans to improve performance. Price holds a Ph.D. from the University of Denver.

Jane C. Venohr, Ph.D. Over the past ten years at PSI, Venohr has provided technical assistance on the development and revision of child support guidelines for over 30 states. Since completing her doctorate in economics in 1997, Venohr has assumed primary responsibility for all PSI guidelines projects. This includes assisting states in updating child support schedules and developing adjustments for shared parenting time, low income, child care, medical expenses, and other factors. It also includes writing legislation, preparing briefing materials, and conducting analyses of the impacts of selected factors on child support orders. For example, in the Arizona and Vermont child support guidelines projects, Venohr directed the case file review to examine the application of and deviations from guidelines. The Arizona study also examined whether mandatory parenting education and application of Arizona's shared-parenting time adjustment affected child support payments.

Venohr has conducted briefings for numerous guidelines review committees and made guidelines-related presentations at National Child Support Enforcement Association conferences, the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association, and other professional meetings. In graduate school, she wrote a computer program to calculate child support orders in all of the 50 states. As a result, she has considerable familiarity with the numbers and assumptions underlying all state child support guidelines.

In addition to child support guidelines research, Venohr was most recently the principal investigator on the Colorado Child Support Staffing project and Colorado Interest Usage Study. Well-versed in statistics, she used various sampling approaches, statistical analyses, and cost analyses for these projects. Venohr holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Colorado, where she specialized in economic demography and econometrics.